DAY 1

On the first day of Christmas
B-Liss gave to me...

Noch einmal

ZAUBERLEHRE

One unsuspecting uke

Merry Xmas

ZAUBERLEHRE

B-Liss

On the third day of Christmas,
BLiss gave to me,
Three French Kissing Boys
Two Spells of Love
&
An Unsuspecting Uke
BLiss

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Ouchou Haru no Yoi no Romance

by

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Happy Birthday Not_My_God!
From the Staff at BLiss

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Information

Sakon Shougen

In old Japanese governing systems, people were usually addressed by their titles instead of their names. There were two wings of the imperial guard: Sakon and Ukon. Shogen referrs to the officer rank, which makes Narihira an officer in the Sakon wing of the Imperial Guard.
(http://www.sho-shin.com/glossary.htm)

Tango no Sekku

Today known as Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day), Tango no Sekku (Boy's Day) is a Japanese national holiday which takes place annually on May 5th. Originally only for boys as the title suggests (Girl's Day, or Hinamatsuri, took place on March 3rd), it is now a combination of the two days, set aside to respect all children's personalities and celebrate their happiness.

Sachuuben

A title under the Daijokan (Department of State), created by the Taiho Code, which was an administrative reorganization enatced in 701 in Japan. The Sachuuben (under the direction of the Sadaiben, or Controller of the Left) would be part of the Ministry of the Center which formed the channel between the Throne and the administration.

Information from Wikipedia.

-kurokagami

KOH・AKIZUKI & ICHI・YUZUKI・PRESENTS

王朝春宵ロマンセ①

Chara COMICS

原作 秋月こお
作画 唯月一

KOH • AKIZUKI & ICHI • YUZUKI • PRESENTS

Koh Akizuki & Ichi Yuzuki Presents

王朝春宵ロマンセ

【おうちょう*はるのよいの*ロマンセ】
Ouchou * Haru no Yoi no *Romance

1

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SENJU!

SENJU-MARU-DONO!

CHIGO SENJUMARU-DONO! AJARI-SAMA IS BACK!

Clap

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.

SO HERE YOU ARE, SENJUMARU

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RUNNING AWAY TODAY, UNDERSTAND?

AH

YOU ACTUALLY DECEIVED ME, MYOUHOU-MARU!?

HEH HEH

KE KE KE

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BEDWARMER!

PAIN ISN'T THE PROBLEM

THAT'S RIGHT BOYS SHOULD ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE HELD QUIETLY

NOT LIKE IT HURTS A LOT!

YOU KNOW WHAT A BEDWARMER IS?

GRAB

OH?

FU FU FU

BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN FROM OYAMAICHI ARE ACTUALLY STILL VIRGINS. THAT'S JUST SIMPLY TOO FUNNY

YOU'RE AN ABANDONED CHILD. DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN BE CONCEITED JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE LOVED BY MONSHU-SAMA.

IT'LL BE EASY IF YOU KNOW

HO?

Ajari-sama is almost back from Kyoto. Let me go!!

THIS IS ENOUGH TIME TO LET THE THREE OF US PLAY TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT

HE WON'T COME BACK THIS QUICKLY!

YOUR CRIES ARE MOST LIKELY AS ADORABLE AS YOUR LOOKS.

WHA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

AH...

Oh
Hey!
BEETO-DONO IS COMING!
WHAT!?
JUSTIN TIME!!
HAH!!
BAM
What?
Shove
What are you all doing?
Ugh...
THEY FELL!
WHAT'S THIS?

I ALMOST COULDN'T PROTECT MY VIRGINITY, THOSE STUPID MONKS...

Ha

Ha

Rustle

Rustle

THEY ACTUALLY TRIED TO USE A TIME WHEN THE MONSHU, AJARI-SAMA, WASN'T HERE

AND TRIED TO MANHANDLE ME!

IF AJARI-SAMA WEREN'T HERE,

A BOY LIKE ME WOULD HAVE NO SAFE PLACE IN THE TEMPLE...

Drip

Drip

ZAA——

ACHOO!

SPRING HAS JUST STARTED, AND IT'S ALREADY THIS COLD...

BUT RATHER THAN BEING FOUND BY TOKUSHOU AND THOSE OTHER GUYS,

AND THEN LETTING THEM TREAD ALL OVER ME,

I'D RATHER STAY HERE ...AND GET DRENCHED IN THE RAIN...

DONG——

DONG——

DONG——

ZAA——

AH! IT'S THE RETURN NOTICE!

RUSTLE

EH?

SLIDE

Creep Creep

WELL... FIRST FILL YOUR STOMACH.

THANK YOU.

WHERE DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT?

I HID IN THE MOUNTAIN.

SIGH~

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T GOOD TO LOOK SO HANDSOME!

Munch Munch

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN TO LET YOU ACCOMPANY AJARI-SAMA TO KYOTO...

DIDN'T HE KNOW OF THEIR INTENTIONS TOWARDS YOU?

NO, IT'S BECAUSE THE CAPITAL IS TOO DANGEROUS.

YUP

THAT'S TRUE... IT'S SAID THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE HIGHER THAN ONE'S SELF.

BUT ON THIS MOUNTAIN, ONCE MONSHU AJARI-SAMA GIVES AN ORDER, NO ONE WOULD DARE DISOBEY

Oh?

MASTER SAID IT'D BE A PROBLEM IF I ATTRACTED THE NOBLES' ATTENTION.

Munch

Munch

LOOK AT HOW DIRTY YOU ARE!

YOU'RE WASTING A HANDSOME FACE.

I HELPED YOU PREPARE A BATH AND CLOTHES. WAIT FOR ME INSIDE.

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE!

AH. .

Tap

Tap

AJARI-SAMA'S CARRIAGE...

AH!

I SEE IT, I CAN SEE IT!!

YOU CAN SEE IT, BUT IT'S STILL SOME DISTANCE AWAY.

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A WILD DOG WEARING THAT STRAW COAT!

LET ME BORROW THIS

I'M GOING TO GO MEET HIM!

Ha ha ha

Ha ha ha

Splash

Splash

Splash

I WAS ABANDONED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH, AND PICKED UP BY AJARI-SAMA

SO WHAT IF I'M A WILD DOG ..!?

IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM THAT I'M STILL HERE.

AJARI-SAMA ?

OH, SENJU?

DID YOU COME TO MEET ME?

YES! EVERYONE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN.

IS THE BATH WATER READY?

IT'S READY!

THE PEOPLE IN THE BATH CHAMBER ARE ALSO READY!

THERE'S ANOTHER CARRIAGE? IS THERE A GUEST...?

OKAY!

ONCE THE WEATHER TURNS COLD, MY ENTIRE BODY ACHES.

HELP ME WASH MY BACK AND MASSAGE MY WAIST IN A LITTLE WHILE.

.....

Turn

I TOOK THIS JOURNEY ON THE BIDDING OF JIEN AJARI-SAMA, AND CAME HERE FROM TOUZAN.

WELL WELL.. WELCOME, PLEASE COME IN.

I AM CALLED TAKUSON.

I AM THE FORMER ENVOY TO CHINA AT THE END OF THE TANG DYNASTY*, AND HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A JOURNEY FOR INCANTATION TRAINING.

*Chinese Dynasty from June 18, 618 – June 4, 907

IS HE A FORMIDABLE PERSON LIKE AJARI-SAMA, TOO?

Tap

Tap

Tap

I heard about it

The previous Touzan no Manshu also went on a journey to China

AJARI-SAMA. .

OH,

YOU MEAN TAKUSON AJARI?

HE LOOKS AT ME WITH A VERY ODD EXPRESSION, SO PLEASE ALLOW ME TO REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE AND ATTEND TO YOU. .

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ABOUT THAT GUEST. .

THANK YOU, I UNDER-STAND.

YOU ARE THE BELOVED SON I RECEIVED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MAHAVAIRO-CANA.

NO NEED TO WORRY, NO NEED TO WORRY

DON'T WORRY.

SO YOU MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND...?

ALTHOUGH YOU'VE BEEN ABANDONED SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG, THERE WAS A REASON BEHIND IT.

I'VE ALSO TOLD YOU THIS MANY TIMES BEFORE, SENJU.

AJARI-SAMA PROTECTED ME SINCE I WAS YOUNG, AND ALLOWED ME TO BE WILLFUL.

I CAME TO THIS PLACE WHEN I WAS SIX YEARS OLD...

YES, AJARI-SAMA.

HE PATIENTLY LISTENED TO MY EXPLANATION.

He not only hit my hand, but also my bottom.

He said he only hit your hand.

WHEN I ESCAPED FROM THE TEACHER, AND WAS BROUGHT BACK...

When did Shungen-dono hit you?

He'll hit me whenever he wants to. When I'm well-behaved, it's the same...

Is that so...

I wasn't willing, so I ran away.

Ever since he spanked me, he'd also bring me to lonely areas to do some bad things.

He said my "shi"* character was written too badly, so he wanted me to take off my pants and let him hit me.

* Shi character Japanese character し

I see...

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, THE CAPITAL'S MOST FAMOUS CALLIGRAPHER, AJARI-SAMA,

PERSONALLY LOOKED OVER MY STUDIES.

WHEN I WROTE WELL, HE'D PRAISE ME...

UNDER AJARI-SAMA'S GUIDANCE,

I MADE UP MY MIND TO BECOME A HIGH PRIEST AND NOT FALL SHORT OF HIS EXPECTATIONS.

OH SENJU,
YES.
WILL YOU BE DANCING AND RECITING POETRY AT THE BAN-QUET?
HURRY AND GO PRACTICE.
YES.
IS IT TO ENTERTAIN THAT GUEST?

WHOM-WHOM-OSE

TO YOU!

LET TAKUSON-SAMA DECIDE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US

WHICH IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF OYA-MAICHI.

HMPH

TO TON

TON

TON

TYOO

TO-TON

TO-TON

TO-TON

TO-TON

TON

OH?

TYOO

TO-TON

TO-TON

TO-TON

TYOO

OOOYH

TO-TON

BOW

A TRULY BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY DANCE.

COME DRINK WITH ME

SENJU..

A SARI-SAMA ..

Glance

Oh

I'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL AT EASE HERE ..

YES.

HURRY AND RECITE POETRY FOR TAKUSON-DONO!

SENJU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Call him through the fence, and pour the far dry?

Shall we summon my elderly neighbour to join us,

Yet here in my cottage there is old wine for our cups.

It's a long way to the market, I can offer you little —

My thatch gate has been closed — but opens now for you.

My path is full of petals — have swept it for no others.

Day after day I have seen only gulls...

North of me, south of me, spring is in flood,

BUT I FEAR I'LL ALSO BRING SHAME TO AJARI-SAMA BY DOING SO?

WHEN HE POURS ME A DRINK, I CAN PRETEND TO BE CARELESS AND TIP THE CUP OVER.

TRULY GIFTED WITH INTELLI-GENCE AND BEAUTY!!

OH...

WHAT.

IS YOUR NAME?

I AM CALLED SENJU-MARU.

YOUR VOICE AND TONE ARE VERY FITTING FOR RECITATION.

IS YOUR TEACHER JIEN AJARI-DONO?

YES.

TRULY A GOOD STUDENT. .

CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR PARENTS' NAMES?

I AM A CHILD ABANDONED IN FRONT OF THE GATES, SO I DO NOT KNOW MY PARENTS' NAMES.

..ABAN-DONED!?

OH.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE AN ABANDONED CHILD. .

BEFORE, AT THE COURT BANQUET,

I SAW A NOBLE NAMED FUJIWARA WHO LOOKED ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE THIS BEAUTIFUL CHILD

HE SEEMS TO BE THE NEPHEW OF THE PRESENTLY FAMOUS MINISTER OF THE RIGHT, YOSHIFUSA-SAMA.

WHETHER IT'S THE FACIAL FEATURES OR TEMPERAMENT, IT'S ALL EXTREMELY ALIKE

YOU'RE EVEN MORE ALIKE WHEN ANGRY!

AND ALSO LIKE QUARRELLING.

JUST A SIMPLE RESEM-BLANCE.

SENJU IS AN ABANDONED CHILD,

WITH ABSOLUTELY NO RELATIONS TO SUCH A POWERFUL FAMILY

THIS PILE OF OLD BONES CANNOT ENDURE TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS OF BANQUET

JUDGING BY THIS CHILD'S DISPOSITION WHEN RECITING, IT WOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH IF I SAID SENJU WAS HIS BROTHER, WOULD IT, JIEN-DONO?

FUJIWARA-SAMA IS AT LEAST SMARTER, AND LOVED VERY MUCH BY THE EMPEROR. .

HEH HEH

I WISH TO TAKE MY LEAVE NOW...

SENJU.

OH

YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO HIM.

MMM..

CHUNK...

AHAHAHAHA HEHEHE HAHA

WHY... DOES HIS EXPRESSION LOOK SO WRETCHED?

I DON'T LIKE THAT PERSON!

IT'S BECAUSE HIS HEART IS FILLED WITH ENDLESS AMBITIONS.

POUT

HE LOOKS AT ME WITH LEWD EYES AND A PRIDEFUL ATTITUDE, JUST LIKE A CATFISH.

HOW LONG WILL HE STAY HERE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT PERHAPS HE WILL BECOME THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE.

HAHA.. CATFISH, YOU SPEAK WELL.

AJARI-SAMA IS THE ONLY OWNER OF OYAMA TEMPLE!

HOW COULD HE?

I'M GETTING OLD ..

AND MY DAYS AS A MONSHU ARE PROBABLY NUMBERED

BEFORE, I ALWAYS HAD TO LOOK UP AT HIM. WHEN DID WE BECOME THIS CLOSE?

YOU'RE 14 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR, AREN'T YOU?

ALREADY ABLE TO LEAVE THIS TEMPLE..

AJARI-SAMA_!?

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE!

AFTER I TURN 16, I'LL BE A MONK AND BECOME AJARI-SAMA'S ATTENDANT!!

YOU'RE NOT SUITABLE AS AN ATTENDANT

DON'T YOU HATE STUDYING AND WRITING SCRIPTURES?

I'LL WORK HARD TO LIKE THEM AND LEARN!

NO, NO..

PERHAPS IT WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY WHEN HE SAID THOSE WORDS TONIGHT.

...?

I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR PAST

I DIDN'T NAME YOU..

SOMEONE WROTE IT IN INK ON YOUR HAND..

. HUH?

AT THE TIME, YOU WERE WRAPPED IN QUALITY SILK CLOTH,

A LITTLE LIKE THE SON OF A GOOD FAMILY.

YOUR APPEARANCE HAD AN AIR OF WEALTH. .

AND YOU WERE A BOY.

PERHAPS YOUR PARENTS ABANDONED YOU IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU...

YOU HAVE PARENTS.

AND THEY'RE ALSO INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE.

NO MATTER HOW INFLUENTIAL THEY ARE, THEY STILL ABANDONED ME!

MY ONLY PARENT IS AJARI-SAMA, WHO FOUND ME, AND THE SURROGATE PARENTS WHO RAISED ME!

I'M ONLY TELLING YOU THE TRUTH...

I HAVE PARENTS...

ONES IN THE CAPITAL

AND MORE-OVER FROM THE UPPER CLASS...!?

HALF A MONTH LATER...

IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT WE'... HAVE TO BID FAREWELL TO TAKUSON-SAMA TOMOR-ROW

JIEN-SAMA IS TOO STRICT,

AND NOT AS GOOD-NATURED AS TAKUSON-SAMA.

TRUE, TRUE...

IT'S ALSO BECAUSE OF MONSHU-DONO THAT THERE ARE LESS AND LESS BOYS AT THIS TEMPLE

RIGHT! REGRET-TABLE!

I'D RATHER BECOME TAKUSON-SAMA'S DISCIPLE.

NOT ONLY IS HE KNOWL-EDGEABLE, BUT HE ALSO HAS A BOLD AND GENEROUS PERSONALITY

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL HAVING A TREA-SURE!

WHAT'S EVEN WORSE IS THAT THE MOST BEAUTI-FUL BOY HAS BEEN TAKEN BY MONSHU-DONO.

HA HA HA

I COULD ONLY BE THAT

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE IS THAT BEAUTY SENJUMARU?

NOT EVEN LETTING HIM STAY FOR THE BANQUET HOW UNREASONABLE!

POUR POUR

YURIMARU!!

HE'S BEEN ATTENDING TO MONSHU-DONO BECAUSE HE HAS A COLD...

YES..

AWAY FROM THE ABBOT'S SIDE!

YOU GO GET THAT KID.

YOU CAN'T EVEN CALL HIM OUT?

WHAT?

UH..

THIS.. I

DOING THIS.. M-MIGHT NOT BE SO GOOD

YOU ONLY HAVE TO DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.

OR ARE YOU AFRAID THE NEXT MONSHU WILL FORGET YOUR ADVAN-TAGES?

!...

GO TO THE CAPITAL..

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL!?

YES, I'M HERE!

SENJU..

I'M NOT GOING! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WANT TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE!

SO STUB-BORN..

HE WANTED TO FIND YOUR FAMILY TO EXPAND THE POWER OF THIS TEMPLE..

HUH?

YESTERDAY, TAKUSON-DONO KEPT PRESSING ME TO LET YOU GO OUT.

HE MIGHT START TO ACT TOMORROW, SO YOU MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TONIGHT AND ESCAPE.

B-

BUT.

I REFUSED OF COURSE

BUT TAKUSON WILL THINK OF WAYS TO GET YOU...

HE.

HE WOULD REALLY DO THAT!?

OPEN

I FEAR HE WILL PLAY WITH YOU, AND EXTORT YOU FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

DO YOU WANT TO BE USED BY THAT MAN?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T PROTECT YOU FOR MUCH LONGER.

HE IS A MAN WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS.

TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

THESE CAN'T BE... MEMENTOS!?

MONEY AND A SINGLE COBALT PESTLE*...

* A hand-held tool for grinding substances in a mortar

KASHOU [THE YEAR] [OLD]
MONTH AUSPICIOUS DAY*

PRIEST'S CIRCLE AND FORMER TEMPLE CHIGO SENJUMARU,

HE IS MY SERVANT WHOM I FOUND OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE. AS THE MONSHU JIEN, I ADOPTED HIM AS MY SON BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITIES. IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE, HE WILL SOON TRAVEL THE COUNTRY. BECAUSE THIS YOUNG ADOLESCENT IS ON THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, PLEASE SUPPORT HIM.

MOUNT SAGA PRIEST'S CIRCLE TEMPLE MONSHU,

AJARI JIEN

* Kashou - The Japanese imperial years 848 to 851
Auspicious Day - one of the six special days in the Japanese lunisolar calendar

THIS ISN'T A CONTRACT,

BUT A PROOF OF MY IDENTITY AND A PASS WARRANTED BY AJARI-SAMA...

LISTEN CAREFULLY DO NOT COME BACK NO MATTER WHAT

I WILL LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN SHORTLY AND LIVE IN ISOLATION.

THEN I ALSO...

YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE CAPITAL.

UNDER-STAND?

WE WILL MEET AGAIN IF WE ARE DESTINED TO.

I WILL OBEY...

KNOCK KNOCK

HURRY AND HIDE!

WHAT IS IT? YURIMARU?

SO IT'S YURIMARU...

EXCUSE MY INTERRUP-TION. .

IS SENJU-MARU-DONO.

HE PROBABLY WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM.

AH.

HE WENT OUT JUST NOW AND HASN'T COME BACK YET

IS..

IS THAT SO?

THEN I'M LEAVING..

ISN'T THIS VOICE...!?

HE'S NOT HERE!?

SENJU ISN'T INSIDE...

Ah

THEN GO AND FIND HIM!

BUT EVEN THEN, HE'S STILL TRYING TO COVER FOR ME...!?

COULD IT BE THAT YURIMARU WAS TOLD TO DO THIS?

HURRY!

FROM THE WINDOW

Fwip

AJARI-SAMA... PLEASE,

YOU MUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF

EH!?

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO THIS LATE?

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

I WON'T LET YOU PASS!

Shift

TAKUSON'S SERVANT!?

LEAP

AH!

IS HE A TENGU*?

*Shape-shifting being that is known for playing tricks as well as being able to fly and teleport

THE CAPITAL IS TO THE NORTH OF SAGAMI!

RUSH

IF I ESCAPE

SO KUMARU ESCAPED

HMM...

JUST AS EXPECTED HE'S A MAN WHO WOULD GO TO ANY LENGTHS

TAKUSON

THAT OLD MAN HE ACTUALLY GUESSED CORRECTLY THAT AJARA SAMA WOULD TE... ME TO ESCAPE TONIGHT!

HEH

DOGS ARE BARKING UP...

ABSOLUTELY CAN'T BE CAUGHT...

AND CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO BE HIS SERVANT

REALLY HATE THAT PERSON

HE WON'T CATCH ME

I MUST GO TO THE CAPITAL THAT AJARI-SAMA SPOKE OF!

HOO

HOO

WAH.

THUD

NN...!

IT'S STILL TEN KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL. CAN'T STOP HERE.

UGH...

THUD

R-R

R-R

About 6 21 miles

PAM

AH!!

THAT'S!..

A TEMPLE PAGODA!?

IT'LL BE THE CAPITAL... MUST BE GETTING VERY CLOSE.

Hee

Hee

IF I JUST KEEP GOING IN THAT DIRECTION,

Rustle

Rustle

RUSTLE

Growl

AH...!

Growl

RUSTLE

GRAB

AH!

WAH!

BITE

GROWL

!!

SCATTER

AHH!

HH...

GROWL

RUSTLE

AH...!

MASTER'S MEMENTOS!!

Gallop

Gallop

Gallop

Gallop

Gallop

=

Gallop

Trot

Kyaaaaa

NOT GOOD ..

WH.. WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW?

KO?

NO

KO?

CLOP

CLOP

WHAT HAPPENED, NARIHIRA-DONO?

Gallop

Gallop

!!

TROT

TROT

TROT

IT LOOKS LIKE A CHILD. I DON'T KNOW IF I STEPPED ON HIM.

LIFT

HEY!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

HEY! IS IT SERIOUS...!?

NN...

AH...

THIS... HE IS..?

First Roll End

王朝春愁
【おうちょうはるのいのロマンセ】
ロマンセ
二ノ巻
Ouchou Haru no Yoi no Romance
Chapter 2

WHY ARE YOU COVERED IN BLOOD'?
WAS IT THE HORSE'?
NO. I DON'T THINK SO.
THE DOGS...
GROWL

SOMEBODY'S COMING.
WILD ONES!?
NO.
MM...
Is it...
Really over this time!?
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WILD DOGS WOULD DO.
HUH?
Will I be taken back...!?

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CHARA COMICS

寺で働く千寿丸は、身寄りのない捨て子の稚児。
でも実は、高貴な身分の親がいるらしい!?
出生の秘密を僧還に狙われ、ついに寺を出奔!!
京の都を目指す途中、藤原諸兄に拾われる。
帝の信頼篤い秘書官で、蔵人を務める諸兄は、
今をときめく藤原一門の御曹司。命を救われた
恩返しに、千寿は諸兄の世話係を願い出て…!?

Story

秋月こお

唯月一

Comic

王朝幸宴

ロマンセ

Moh Akizuki x Hajime Yuzuki

HEY!
YOUR HUNTING DOGS HAVE ATTACKED THIS CHILD!
AH.
THAT'S THE KID WE WERE CHASING AFTER...
COME ON, LET'S BRING BACK THE PREY.
SHOCK
PL
PLEASE HELP ME!
HM?
SHIVER

PLEASE HELP ME! THEY'LL TAKE ME BACK
This isn't the time for that!
SQUEEZE
OH.
SO YOU CAN SPEAK?
I'M FUJIWARA MORIE AND HE'S ARIWARA NARUMIA
RUSTLE
HEY!
COME HERE!

* Term for youths that Buddhist monks often entered relationships with. See chapter 1 information.
YES HE'S A CHIGO THAT ESCAPED FROM THE TEMPLE.
I BELIEVE YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "PREY."
WERE YOU REFERRING TO THIS CHILD?
THE TEMPLE ASKED US TO BRING HIM BACK
No you're wrong!
I'm not a chigo or a slave of the temple!
Ajari sama gave me proof!

WAIT, WHICH TEMPLE ARE YOU PEOPLE FROM?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING ABOUT PROOF.
NYOIRIN TEMPLE OF SAGA.
ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY GOES BACK TO THE TEMPLE!
OH? THAT TEMPLE'S MONSHU* IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS CALLIGRAPHY AND STRONG SENSE OF MORALITY.
HAS HE STOOPED SO LOW AS TO HUNT FOR PEOPLE?
YOU LET THE DOGS GO, KNOWING THAT THEY COULD HAVE KILLED SOMEONE...
HUNTING FOR PEOPLE? DON'T MAKE IT SOUND SO VULGAR!
WE WERE JUST USING DOGS TO CHASE AN ESCAPEE...
shift

* Head Patriarch of the buddhist tempe
See chapter 1 information.

THIS NO LONGER A CHASE BUT A HUNT TO KILL'
YOU MAY RETURN TO THE TEMPLE AND TELL THEM THAT THIS CHILD WILL TEMPORARILY BE UNDER MY CUSTODY'
SINCE BOTH PARTIES CLAIMS DO NOT MATCH THERE NEEDS TO BE FURTHER INVESTIGATION

HEY! MORJE!
WE'LL BE LATE IF YOU DON'T HURRY!
I KNOW
NO.
THAT WON'T !
GRAB
AH.
WOAH!
OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE A BAND OF THIEVES?
SWISH

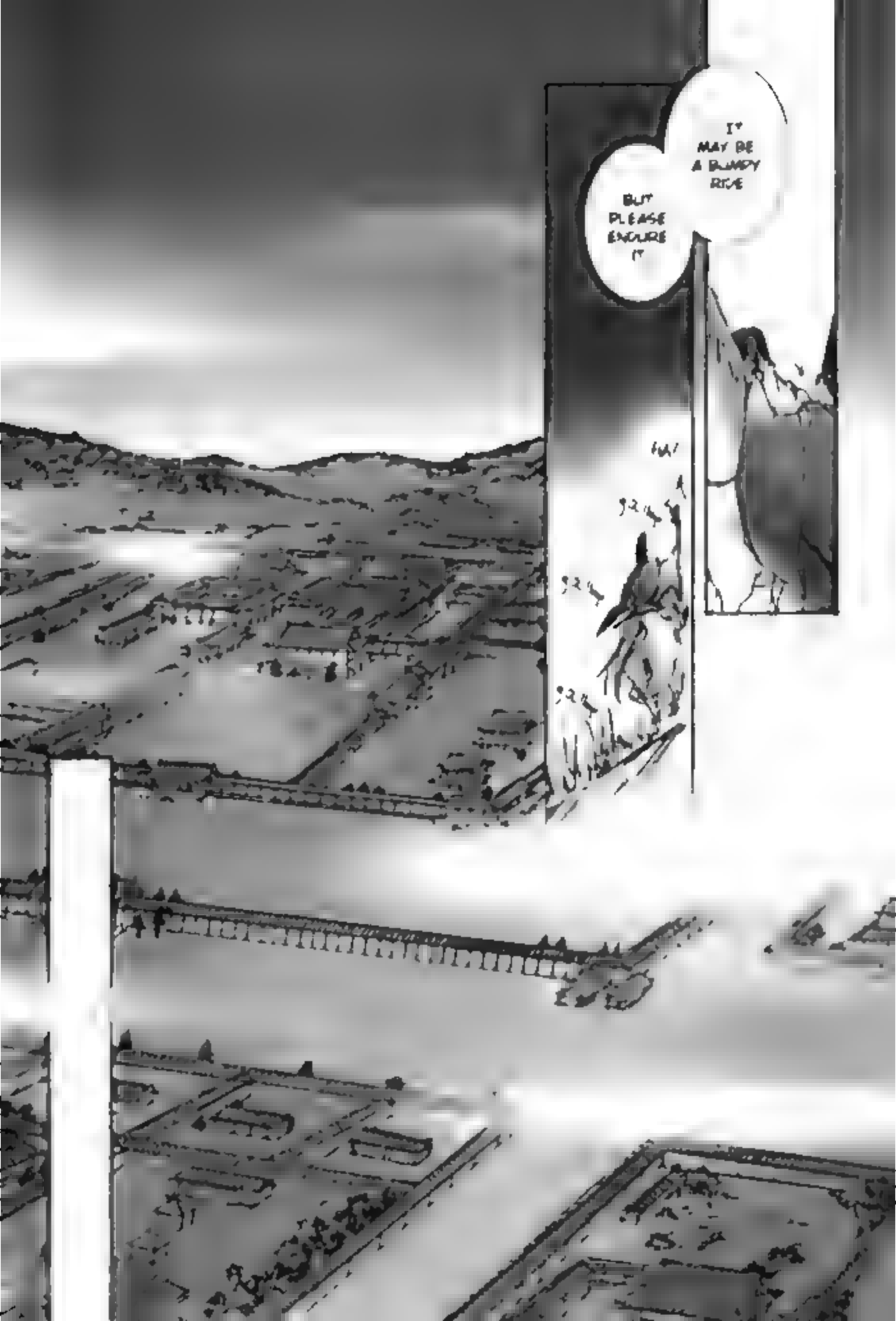
TRADING AND SELLING PEOPLE IS A CRIME SUITABLE FOR THE DEATH PENALTY"
YOU'RE NOT PEOPLE FROM THE TEMPLE BUT RATHER THIEVES WHO KIDNAP CHILDREN!
OH?
IF THAT'S TRUE THEN I CAN'T LET YOU PASS.

Ha
Ha
FINE WE'LL LEAVE! YOU CAN DEAL WITH WHATEVER THE TEMPLE SAYS!
WE.
WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU CAN TELL THEM THAT THE DANJOUDAI* IS CATCHING UP TO THEM!
Daze
HEY.
HEY!?

IS HE DEAD?
HEY!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DON'T SAY SUCH ILL-BODING THINGS! HE'S STILL BREATHING!
I SEE.
SO ARE YOU GOING TO BRING HIM BACK OR LEAVE HIM HERE?
OF COURSE I'LL CARRY .. NO, BRING HIM BACK!
.....?
IS IT A GIRL?
NO, HE'S A BOY.

THEN THAT'S NO FUN. LET'S LEAVE HIM HERE.
Hmph
I'M GOING FIRST, SO CATCH UP SOON!
gallop
gallop
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO...
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, WE WON'T MAKE IT TO THE COURT COUNCIL!
AND WHOSE FAULT WOULD THAT BE!?
NARIHIRA-DONO,* AT LEAST HELP ME..
*honorific like -san or -kun that suggests great respect. "Lord" or "Lady"
trot
trot
gallop
gallop
SIGH
Damnit, I always have to clean up his mess...!
He forced me to come with him today too

AWAJI, IT'S GOING TO BE A BIT HEAVY, BUT PLEASE BRING US BACK TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
neigh
. HE'S COVERED IN BLOOD, BUT HE'S NOT DEEPLY INJURED.
THANK GOODNESS HE'S STILL BREATHING ..


IT MAY BE A BUMPY RIDE
BUT PLEASE ENDURE IT

OH?
SAKON SHOUGEN-SAMA* RETURNED QUITE A WHILE AGO.
SORRY, I'M LATE . WHERE IS NARIHIRA-DONO?
IS SHE A GIRL?
OH?
SADLY, HE'S A BOY... BUT HE IS STILL VERY PRETTY.
WELL, WELL.
I WAS LATE BECAUSE I PICKED THIS ONE UP ..
NARIHIRA-DONO SAW THE DOGS ATTACKING, AND ASKED ME TO SAVE HIM
I UNDER-STAND.
I CAN'T TAKE HIM TO MY MAN-SION RIGHT NOW,
SO KEEP HIM IN THE STABLE UNTIL I'M DONE WITH THE COUNCIL.
I WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO TAKE HIM IN, SO I WILL LOOK AFTER HIM MYSELF

I MUST HURRY.. I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD TAKE SO MUCH TIME.
TOMO-YASU! PRE-PARE THE SOKU-TAI!*
YES!
STEP
STEP
*Ceremonial court dress
PREPARE A CUP OF TEA BEFORE WE LEAVE.
tighten
YES, COMING

sigh
KNOWING TOMOYASU, I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT WATER IS FINE.
I can already hear the drumming within the gates
!!
DONG-
DONG-
DONG-
sleep
sleep
sleep
TOMO-YASU! TOMO-YASU!!
YES, YES!
THE TEA
NEVER MIND THE TEA!
HELP ME WITH MY SHOES!
mttle
mttle
SHOE ..
SHOE ..
CLACK
The other way around..!

STEP
STEP
STEP
TOMOYASU HAS BEEN A SERVANT FOR TWO YEARS NOW,
STEP
AND YET HE'S STILL CLUMSY
I WONDER IF HE WILL IMPROVE ..
STEP

WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE TANGO* COURT BANQUET TODAY, CORRECT?
YES.
THE SECRETARIES TODAY WILL BE KINOSADA MORIDONO AND ..
*Abbreviation for Tango no Sekku or the Boy's Day Celebration. See Information.
OH.
THAT WOULD BE ME.
YOU'RE LATE, NARIHRADONO!
UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T WORK SO HARD EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY.
YAWN
Hey.

heh
heh
OH MY, YOU'RE SULLEN AND LEWD.
Hn
I WORK HARD IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON, BUT I SLEEP PROPERLY AT NIGHT
BASED ON EXPERIENCE, FLIRTING IN THE EARLY AFTER-NOON IS MORE EFFECTIVE.
NO, IT'S FINE, MOROE.
WHAT!?
heh
heh
WHA
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ..!?
BUT YOU CAN OCCASIONALLY CATCH A FOXY WIFE AND TEACH HER SOME NEW THINGS.
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
DOING IT IN THE MORNING MIGHT BE A LITTLE RISKY...
71

HA
HA
HA
HA
RIGHT MAJOR GENERAL, YOSHIMINE MUNESADA-SAMA.
WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY LIVELY IN HERE.
SACHUUBEN-SAMA* IS NOT FEELING WELL, SO HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE ON TIME FOR THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL.
IS IT A BACKACHE OR TOOTH-ACHE?
OR IS HIS HEADACHE AGAIN THIS TIME?
Hm

* Administrative title of the Department of

NARI-HIRA-DONO.
Ha ha ha
EXCUSE ME,
I'M ALWAYS BEING SCOLDED BY MOROE-DONO BECAUSE OF MY RUDENESS.
NOW NOW,
LET'S CONTINUE WITH OUR MAIN TOPIC.
Hehe
Hehe
DONG-
DONG-

Is that child going to be alright...?

ARE YOU AWAKE?
THUMP
WHERE AM I.
UM.
I...
AH.
pain
YOU WERE COVERED WITH BITE WOUNDS
I TREATED THEM, BUT THEY'LL HURT FOR FOUR OR FIVE MORE DAYS.

AH...
IS THIS THE DANJOUDAI?
NO,
THIS IS SAMARYOU. IT'S IN THE CAPITAL'S IMPERIAL PALACE.
THE KEEPER OF THE IMPERIAL ARCHIVES, FUJIWARA MOROE-SAMA, ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
OH, YES! IT WAS MOROE-SAMA..
HE WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED ME...!
The Keeper of the Imperial Archives, Fujiwara Moroe-sama... I must remember that.
HERE, PORRIDGE.
IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO TALK, THEN EAT.

bow
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
munch
munch
munch
GO BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU EAT.
YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.
YES...
AH.
WHAT IS IT?
MY LETTER. THE PROOF AJARI-SAMA GAVE ME IS GONE!
rustle
WHA.
rustle
WHAT!?
rustle

After I dropped the pestle, I fell unconscious...
I didn't think I'd lose the proof as well...
YOU WEREN'T HOLDING ANYTHING LIKE THAT
NO..
DID YOU PUT IT IN YOUR SHIRT?
MOROE-SAMA MAY HAVE PUT IT AWAY FOR YOU.
YOU SHOULD ASK HIM ABOUT IT WHEN HE COMES.
YES.
.YES
Ajari-sama...
I've lost...
Everything important...
Shiver

BACK IN MY HOMETOWN, I HAVE A SON ABOUT YOUR AGE...
scratch
...I'M SHIMOTSUKE YORINAO, A WORKER FOR SAMARYOU.
...IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST CALL ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
step
step
step

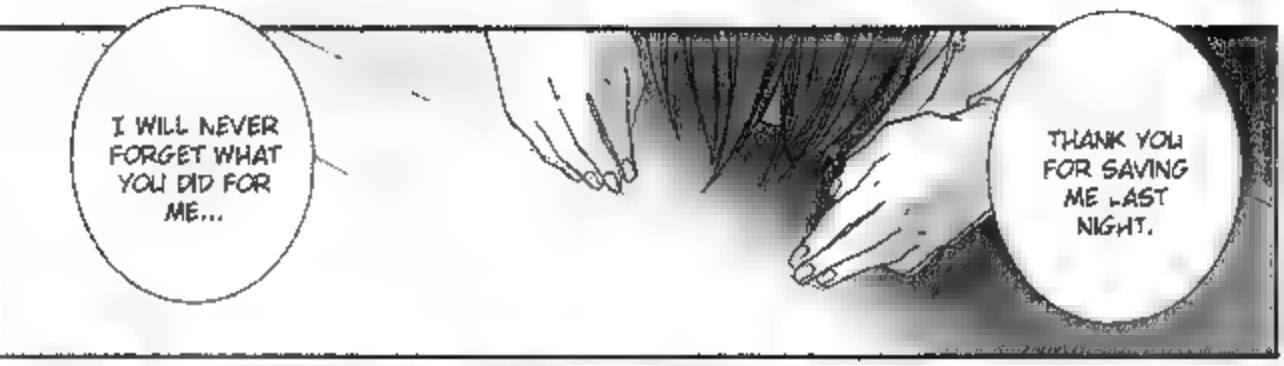
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT FOR?
MOROE-SAMA...? WOAH, WHAT BIG EYES...
STOP PEEKING MOROE-SAMA ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER HIM.
stare stare
OH?
WHO'S THIS KID?
shoo
shoo

WHERE IS THE CHILD I ASKED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF?
YES.

YORI-NAO!
YORINAO, ARE YOU THERE?

HE'S HERE...
Sit
He's back!
shake
shake

Moroe-sa...


I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR ME...
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME LAST NIGHT.

MY NAME IS SENJUMARU.
BUT FIRST, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
YES, OF COURSE . .
ALLOW ME TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS..
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES,

LIFT YOUR HEAD.
IT'S ALRIGHT
YES, THANK YOU SO MUCH .
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?

AH.
OH..?
THOSE PEOPLE SAID THAT ..
YOU ARE A CHIGO OF NYOIRIN TEMPLE.
AH
..YES,
I WAS A CHIGO OF NYOIRIN TEMPLE.
SHIFT
OH?
SO YOU ARE A CHIGO.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, NARIHIRA-DONO?
AH, I SEE HE DOES HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE
This man...
was the one on the horse last night.
Glance
WHEN ALL THOSE WOUNDS HEAL,
HE'LL SHINE LIKE A BEAUTIFUL PEARL

At night...!?
Is he the same as those monks...!?
gasp
IF HE'S A CHIGO, HE SHOULD HAVE PROPER ETIQUETTE IN THE MORNING AND AT NIGHT
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE WITH H.M.
Hehe
Hm? Are you saying he has competition?
AND?
IF HE RAN AWAY, THEN WE MUST BRING HIM BACK!
YOU CAN'T KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO YOURSELF!
Um
HE RAN AWAY FROM THE TEMPLE.
SO LET ME TAKE H.M IN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL AT ME LIKE THAT
OR DO YOU WANT HIM FOR YOURSELF ..?
WHAT!?
Hm?
glance
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT HIM THIS WHOLE TIME..
SO YOU LIKE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BOYS MORE THAN WOMEN. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE LIKE THAT, MORDE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING'?
NOT EVERYONE HAS THE SAME INCLINATIONS AS YOU DO!
If this continues Ajari-sama's efforts will go to waste..
What should I do!?
THEN JUST LET HIM STAY WITH ME.
BUT HE'S A SERVANT OF THE TEMPLE ..
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
?

JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE... DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'S A SERVANT? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS PALACE?
Hm...
THUMP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'LL EXPLAIN THE REST AT MY MANSION.
Turn

ANYWAY, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
Hmm
I'VE PREPARED THE HORSES.
SENJU, WAS IT? TELL HIM TO COME ALONG.

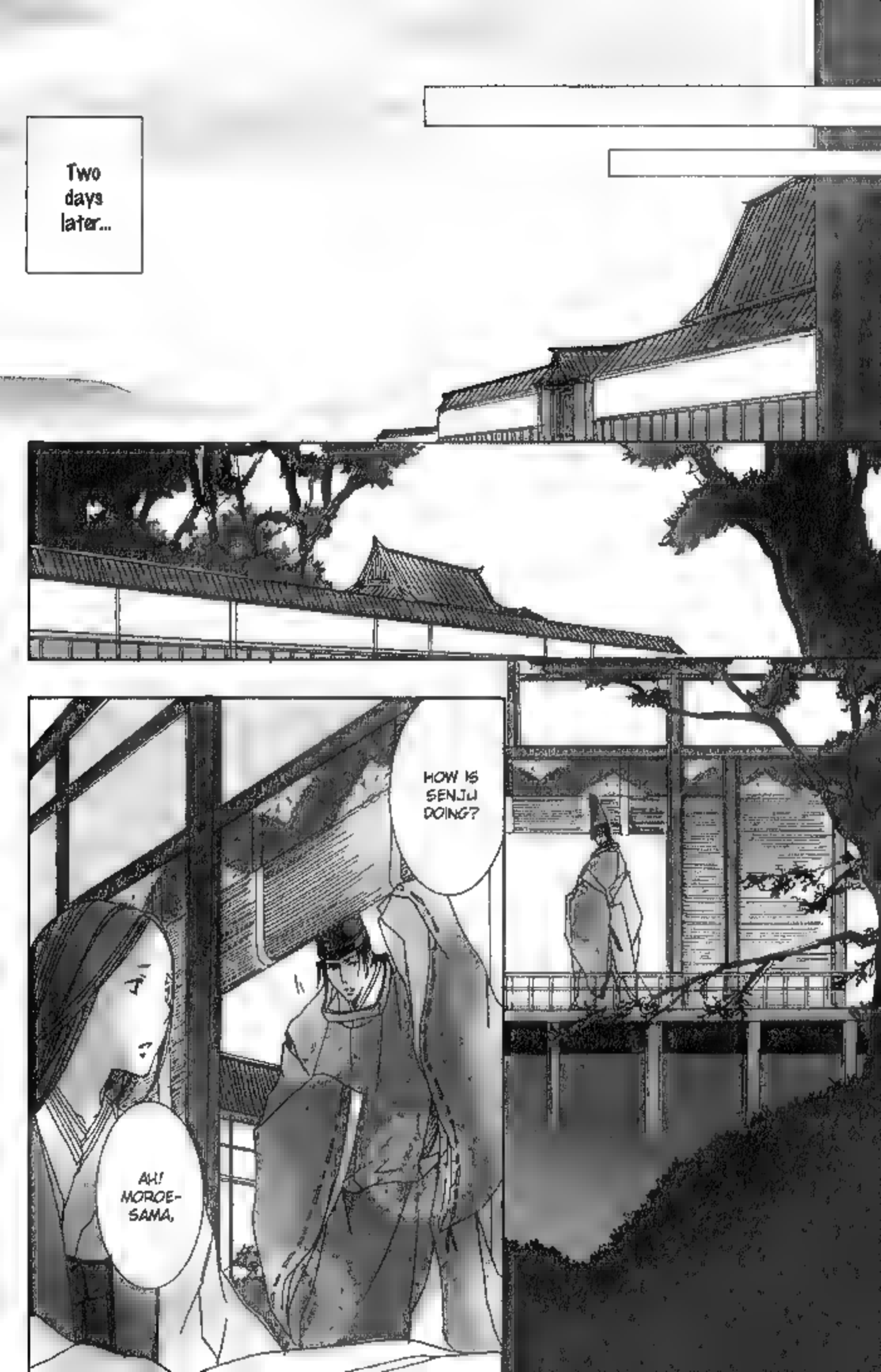
I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE SAVED ME,
BUT I CANNOT GO WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY.
I have to think of something...
Narihira-sama might want to use me like Takuson...!
OH? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO?
YES. LAST NIGHT, I LOST THE PROOF THAT AJARI-SAMA GAVE ME.
AFTER I FIND IT, I WILL FOLLOW YOU TO YOUR MANSION.
DO YOU THINK HE PLANS ON RUNNING AWAY?
THINK ABOUT WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? MOROE.

I CAN TELL THAT HE DOESN'T TRUST ME.
Hm?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE KNOWS WHY I WANT TO TAKE HIM IN.
WHY?
TO LET HIM SERVE ME AT NIGHT, OF COURSE
rustle
SER...!!
DON'T YOU HAVE ENOUGH WOMEN!?
NOW IT'S THE SAME GENDER_!?
Blush
ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?

YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN SENJU, RIGHT?
Mm
THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON A CHIGO WOULD RUN FROM THE TEMPLE.
I'LL TREAT HIM KINDLY, AND HELP HIM FORGET ABOUT THE ABUSE HE'S TAKING FROM THE MONKS.
RIGHT, SENJU?
Wah...
Ah.
No...!!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
Ah!!

okay, okay, I get it!
IF THOSE ARE YOUR INTENTIONS, THEN I WILL TAKE CARE OF SENJU!
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!?
He understood my feelings, and stood up for me...
He really is a nice person..!

EH?
dizzy
AH.
shiver
flop
SENJU, WHAT'S WRONG!?
AH,
THE FEVER PROBABLY CAME BACK.
Hey hey
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WOULDN'T SHUT UP!!
POINT
YOU KNEW HE WAS SICK, AND STILL MADE HIM TALK FOR SO LONG!
HOW UNCARING.
Sigh~
Well Well


Two days later...
HOW IS SENJU DOING?
AH! MOROE-SAMA,

HE'S BEEN HERE FOR TWO DAYS...
BUT HIS FEVER...
step step
I SEE...
A, JARI...
SAMA..
.....
PES. . TLE..
hua hua

I'M SORRY THE NIGHT I FOUND YOU
AH. PESTLE
WHAT?
PESTLE? YOU MEAN THAT RITUAL IMPLEMENT?

I SHOULD HAVE GONE BACK FOR IT
Squeeze
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT BEING LATE TO THE COUNCIL.
AND I IGNORED YOUR WORDS.
He kept on repeating it last night as well...
It must have been something very important to him...
PESTLE
AJARI
SAMA
Haa
Haa

SENJU,
WAIT FOR ME...
rustle
I WILL FIND THE PESTLE FOR YOU...!
If that will ease your pain...
二ノ巻 終
Chapter 2 End

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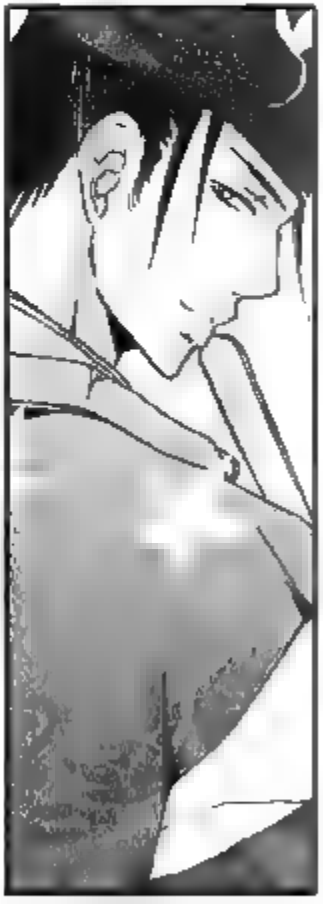
Ouchou Haru no Yoi no Romance

by

Akitsuki Koh &
Yuzuki Ichi



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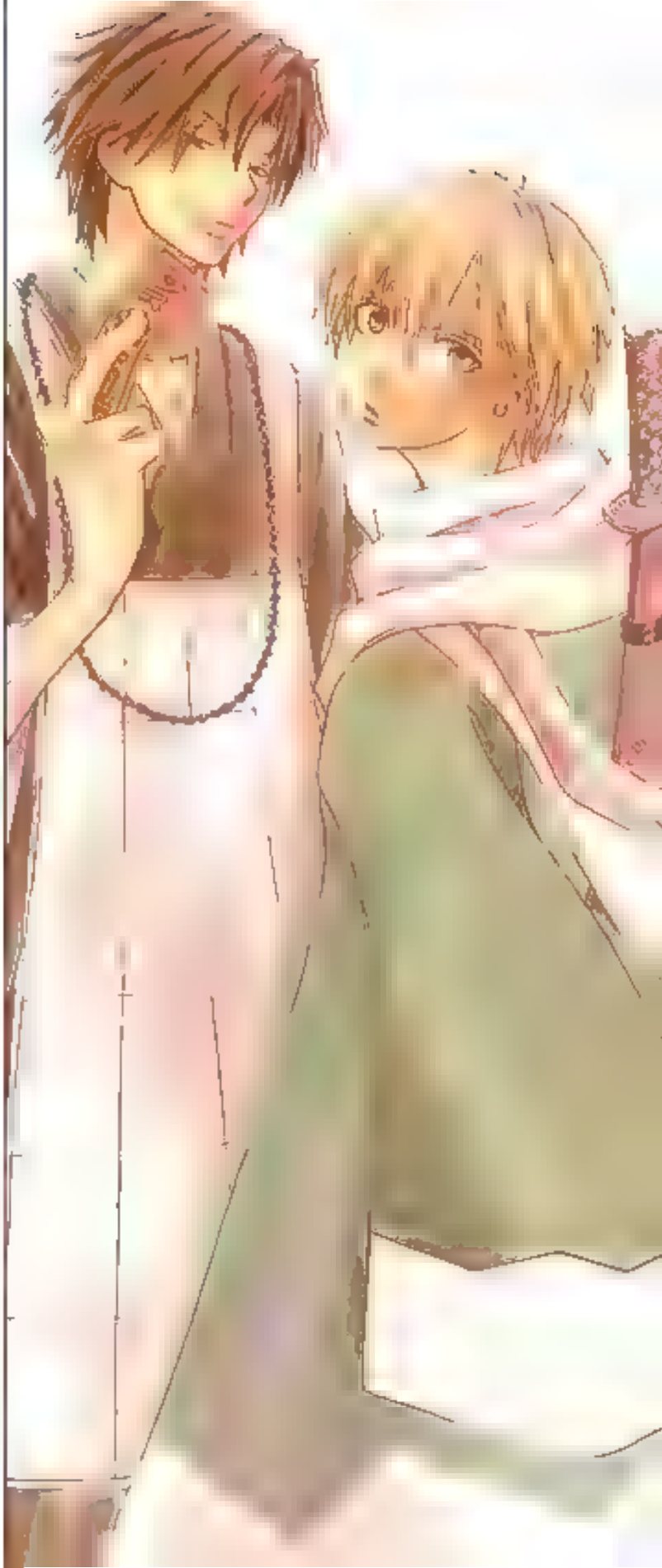
Join heaven...



Happy Birthday Sakura31
Bliss

王朝春月
【おうちょうはるのよいのロマンセ】
ロマンセ三ノ巻
Ouchou Haru no Yoi no Romance
Chapter 3

HEY, MOROE.
trot
trot
Hm?

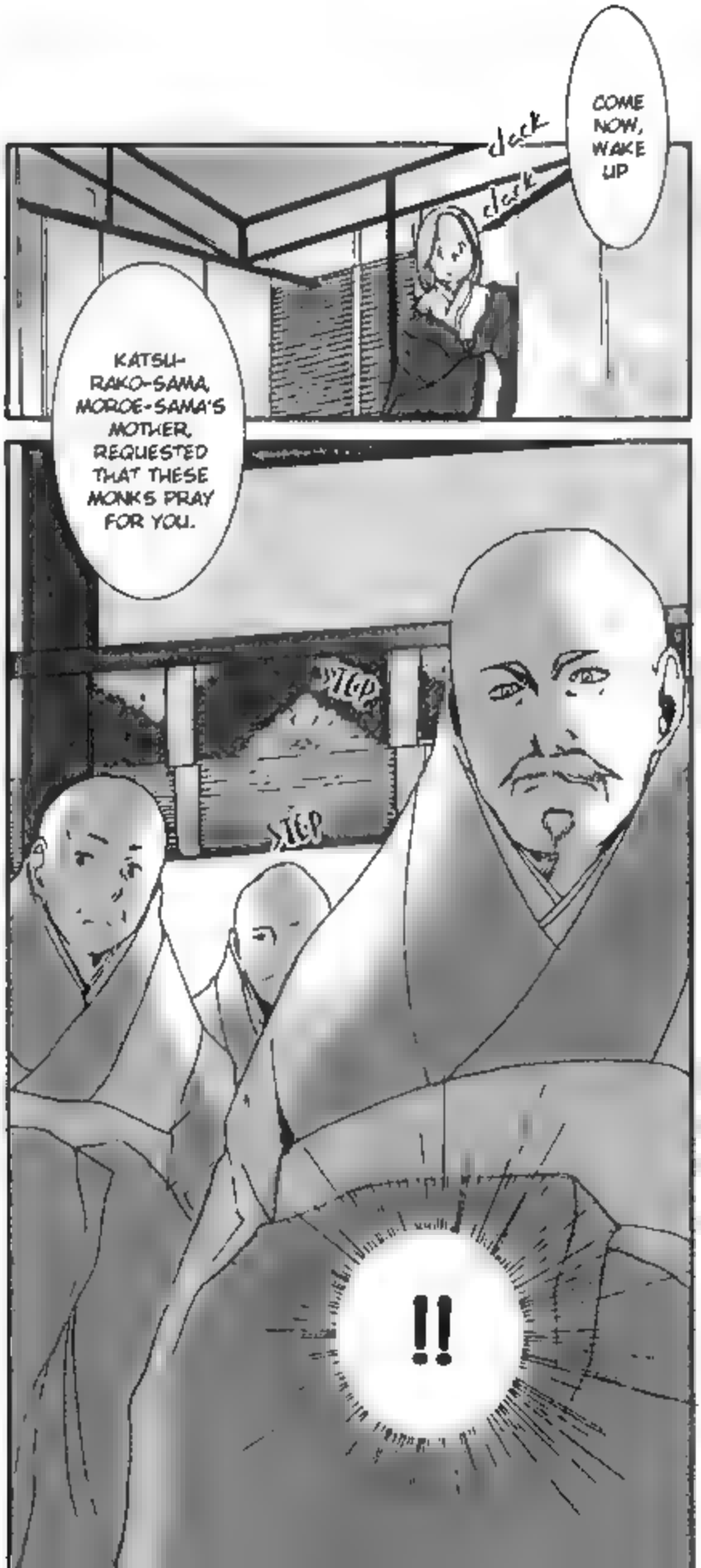
TODAY'S ALREADY THE FOURTH DAY. IF I'M AFFLICTED BY THE "ILLNESS OF LOVE," THEN YOU HAVE THE "ILLNESS OF RESPONSIBILITY".
ARE YOU STILL SEARCHING FOR SENJU'S COBALT PESTLE?
NARIHIRA-DONO.
YES, I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT.
OR... DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SENJU AT FIRST SIGHT?
You're teasing me again.
WHO KNOWS.
Well well.

MOROE,
THE POWER OF LANGUAGE DWELLS IN THOSE WORDS.
rustle
rustle
trot
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...You can't escape...
...You can't escape Senjumaru...
No matter where you hide, it's useless...

AJARI-SAMA!!
AH...
AJARI-SAMA.!
So there you are...
Takuson!?
I finally found you...
Senju-maru...

Mom,
Come
here!
GREEP
I won't
let you get
away!!
NO!!


COME NOW, WAKE UP
clack
clack
KATSU-RAKO-SAMA, MOROE-SAMA'S MOTHER, REQUESTED THAT THESE MONKS PRAY FOR YOU.
!!

AH...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
A dream...!?

NO...
They found me...!!
They chased after me..
N-NO..
SO IT'S THIS CHILD...
They're taking me back...!!
!!
No!
Don't do this!
Ah...
WE SHOULD BE EXORCISING HIM, NOT PRAYING FOR HIM!
SURROUND HIM!
RUSTLE

AH.
AHH
AHH..
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
AH!!
THUMP

MO-
MOROE-SAMA
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
STEP
PUSH
ASIDE!!
GRAB
AH
AH

WHA.
WHAT...
I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS LATER!
YOU'LL BE POSSESSED BY THE DEMON!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXORCISM! PLEASE MOVE ASIDE!
push
IT'S WHAT YOU SPOKE OF.
THE COBALT PESTLE!
DO YOU KNOW?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
Ah.
TAKE IT!
OPEN YOUR HANDS, SENJU...!
I FOUND IT FOR YOU!

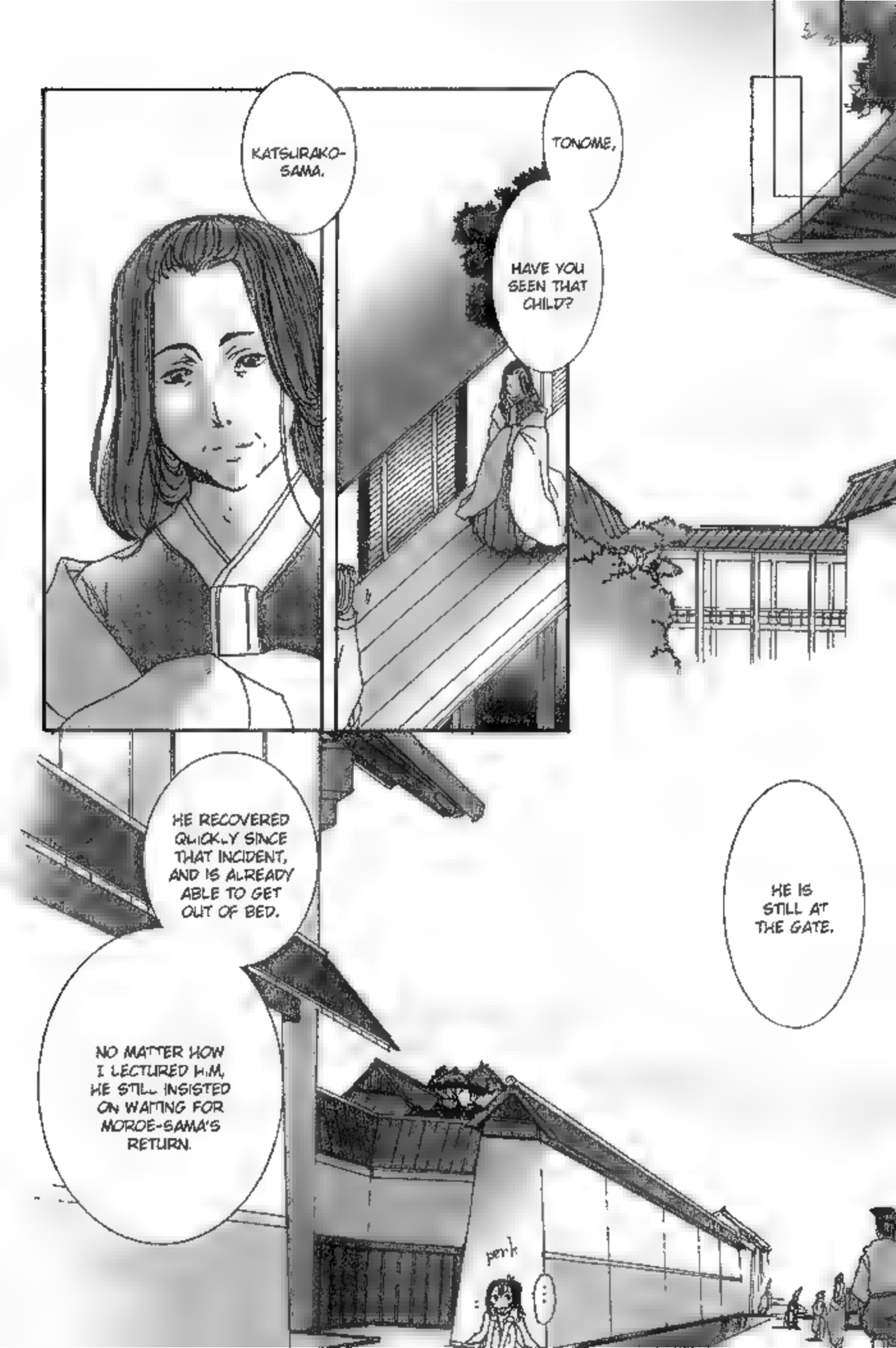
AH...
THIS IS... AJARI-SAMA'S COBALT PESTLE...
I DEEPLY APOLOGIZE, FOR MY RUDE BEHAVIOR EARLIER.
IT APPEARS SENJUMARU IS AFRAID OF MONKS. WE'LL HAVE TO PASS ON THE INCANTATION AND PRAYERS...

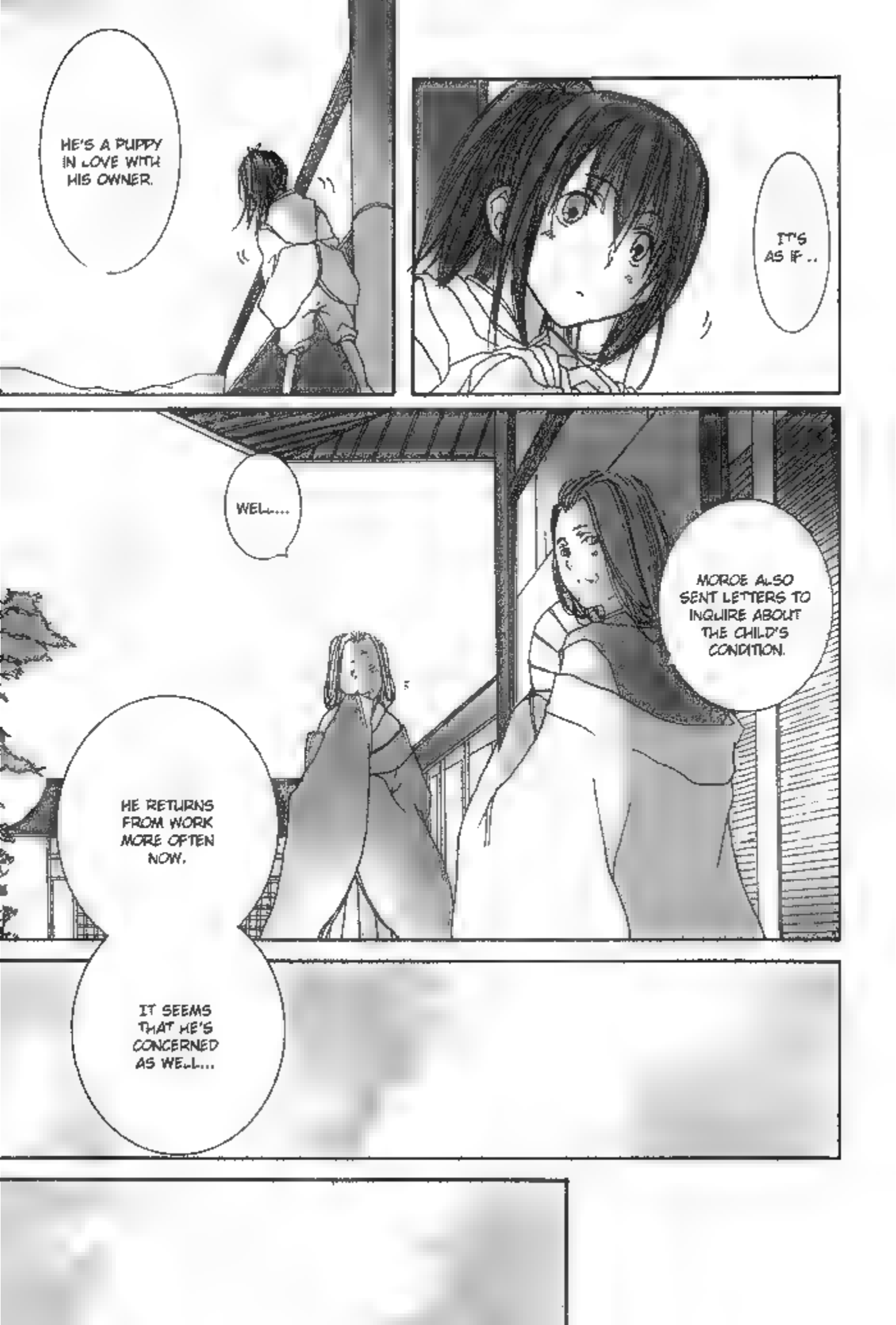
B-BUT THIS CHILD IS CLEARLY POSSESSED BY THE DEMON!
IF THAT WERE TRUE, WHAT KIND OF DEMON WOULD HOLD ONTO THIS COBALT PESTLE FROM JIEN AJARI,
THE MONK WHO STUDIED IN CHINA, AND THE AUTHORITY ON ESOTERIC BUDDHISM?
IS HE REALLY POSSESSED?
TONOME, PLEASE SEE THEM OUT
hmph
...

step
step
I'M SORRY THEY SCARED YOU.
MY MOTHER MEANT NO HARM.
YES.
I HAD MISTAKEN THOSE MONKS FOR THE HORRIBLE ONES.
IT'S EMBARRASSING, BEING TAKEN CARE OF LIKE THIS...
No...
I must not think about it...!
What did those "horrible ones" subject this helpless and slender body to...?

WHEN I THOUGHT THAT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THEM,
IT TURNS OUT THAT BOTH WERE PICKED UP BY NEARBY VILLAGERS
Ajari-sama's letter...!!
IS THIS YOURS AS WELL?
THAT'S RIGHT,
I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU.
Rustle
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS. !
fear
IT'S WONDERFUL...
THAT YOU WOULD SEARCH FOR THEM..

drip
Hic
I WON'T FORGET...
Hm
Zzz
Zzz
STILL A CHILD.


KATSURAKO-SAMA.
TONOME,
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT CHILD?
HE RECOVERED QUICKLY SINCE THAT INCIDENT, AND IS ALREADY ABLE TO GET OUT OF BED.
NO MATTER HOW I LECTURED H.M, HE STILL INSISTED ON WAITING FOR MORDE-SAMA'S RETURN.
HE IS STILL AT THE GATE.
perk


HE'S A PUPPY IN LOVE WITH HIS OWNER.
IT'S AS IF ..
WEL....
MORDE ALSO SENT LETTERS TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE CHILD'S CONDITION.
HE RETURNS FROM WORK MORE OFTEN NOW.
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S CONCERNED AS WEL...

According to the letter I received from mother two days ago
It seems that he's doing well.
step
step
Two days later
WELCOME BACK, MORDE-SAMA. YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FOR EIGHT DAYS
TONOME!
IS ANYONE HERE?
WHERE IS SENJU?
HE'S IN THE NORTH HALL.
WITH MY MOTHER? SHE APPEARS TO BE QUITE TAKEN WITH HIM.
WELL, SHE SPOILS HIM LIKE HER OWN CHILD.

Whish
JUMP

step
step
ANGRY

NARIHIRA-DONO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
!
MOROE-SAMA!

WELCOME BACK!
...SENJU!
step
step
Haha...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN!
I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING FINE.
YES, IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU THAT I'VE RECOVERED!
I'M TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS!
I'M TRULY, TRULY THANKFUL!

MY MOTHER WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK CARE OF YOU.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
NO,
shake shake
OF COURSE NOT!
IT WAS MOROE-SAMA WHO TOOK ME IN,
AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS A STRANGER, MADE SURE I WAS DEARLY TENDED TO.
BOW
NOT ONLY THAT, YOU FOUND TWO OF MY MOST IMPORTANT THINGS...

MOROE-SAMA IS MY SECOND LIFESAVER.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION,
ALLOW ME TO BE YOUR SERVANT.
I MAY BE IGNORANT, BUT PLEASE,
ALLOW ME TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.
ALRIGHT.
I'LL ASK MY MOTHER AND SEE IF YOU CAN STAY HERE AS A RETAINER.
SO, HOW DID IT GO? DID MOROE ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST?
..YES.

AS A RETAINER AT THIS MANSION. .
REALLY? DIDN'T YOU WANT TO SERVE HIM?
MOROE DOESN'T RETURN TO THIS ESTATE VERY OFTEN.
SO IT MIGHT NOT BE WHAT YOU WISHED FOR.
I'LL OBEY MOROE-SAMA'S ORDERS.

I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH...!
WHAT IF HE SOLD YOU TO A MAN WHO PLAYS WITH YOUR BODY?
AND WHAT IF MOROE DOESN'T WANT YOU ANYMORE, AND DECIDES TO SELL YOU?
WHAT!?

MOROE-SAMA SAVED MY LIFE...
SO FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE,
THIS BODY BELONGS TO MOROE-SAMA!
IF THAT'S MOROE-SAMA'S WISH, THEN I SHALL OBEY
I SEE,
YOU'RE PREPARED
HE'S BEAUTIFUL SIMPLY TO LOOK AT...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM TO ME?
Ach
BUT I LIKE THIS CHILD.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO CARE EITHER WAY,

DOES IT MATTER?
I'M SURE SENJU WOULD RATHER WORK FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS HIM, RATHER THAN BEING PLACED HERE OUT OF RESIGNATION...
AH, NO... THAT IS...
UM...
WE...
THAT..
THAT'S RIGHT!
I ALMOST FORGOT!
MY CURRENT ATTENDANT ISN'T VERY EFFECTIVE!!

I WILL KEEP SENJU AS MY OWN RETAINER!
...Am I being played straight into his hands again...!?
No! I can't stop now
OH, YOU MEAN THAT YOUNG ATTENDANT TOMOYASU? I'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT HIM, BUT
WHAT ABOUT IT?
THA...
THAT MEANS UH,
I CAN'T TURN HIM OVER TO YOU.
I'M SORRY!
Morde-sama...!!

WELL, BE SURE TO CHERISH HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO GOES BACK ON HIS WORD.
Hehe
UM... EXCUSE ME, BUT. .
DID I OVERSTEP MY BOUND-ARIES. .?
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO'S UNSURE OF MY COMPETENCY AS A MASTER.
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE ENTERING A LORD-RETAINER RELATIONSHIP, I WANT TO BECOME A MASTER THAT YOU'LL BE PROUD TO SERVE.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
I'M.. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND WORDS!!
I SHALL SERVE YOU FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!

ONE SPRING EVENING, I CAME ACROSS A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER THAT STRUCK MY HEART MY HEART FELT AS IF, IT CAME ACROSS A FRESH AND FLOWING STREAM, THAT RINSED AWAY THE DAY'S FRUSTRATION.
THOUGH I BUILT A FENCE TO PROTECT THE FLOWER, I FEAR A MERCILESS HAND WILL STILL DO THE PLUCKING, FOR THOSE MERCIFUL FRIENDS WITH A HEART, I OFFER UP A CUP OF SAKE.
It's flowery scent spread by the wind
The wisteria springs spring from the high hill
It's aptly named!
FWIP
WELL WELL, HOW DEVOTED, HOW BEAUTIFUL!
rustle
SENJU, BRING US SOME SAKE.
YES!

SO, YOU'LL TAKE SENJU WITH YOU TO THE HOUSE OF THE KEEPER OF IMPERIAL ACHIEVES?
I UNDERSTAND THAT KATSURAKO-SAMA WILL BE DISSAPPOINTED,
BUT THIS IS WHAT SENJU WANTS FOR HIMSELF
YOU KNOW, THE MORNING AFTER HE WOKE UP, THE FIRST THING HE ASKED WAS WHERE YOU WERE.
I HEARD HE STILL KEPT ASKING SEVERAL TIMES A DAY IF YOU WERE "BACK YET."

I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IS THAT SO?

THIS MAN WAS ALSO ANXIOUS TO RETURN.
Sip
WELL... I SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN LAST NIGHT,
BUT BECAUSE YOU HAD TO STAY IN, I WORKED IN YOUR STEAD ALL NIGHT LONG
NOW NOW, MORIE-DONO.
WE ASSIST EACH OTHER ON DAYS OF CONFINEMENT, SO WHY BE SO RESENTFUL?
Humph
BY THE WAY, SENJU,
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHERE YOU'RE FROM..
I'M HAPPY TO HAVE YOU SERVING ME,
BUT FEEL FREE TO GO IF YOU HAVE A HOME YOU WANT TO RETURN TO.

NO OTHER CLUES?

I SEE...
NO, BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW EITHER!

I CONSIDER AJARI-SAMA MY FIRST LIFESAVER.
HE WATCHED OVER MY STUDIES SINCE I WAS SIX YEARS OLD.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM.
OR EVEN WHO MY PARENTS ARE . I WAS ABANDONED AT THE TEMPLE'S GATE AND RAISED BY AJARI-SAMA.
ONLY THE NAME "SENJU" WAS WRITTEN IN THE PALM OF THIS HAND..

THEN YOU'RE THE DIRECT DISCIPLE OF JIEN AJARI, THE FAMOUS CALLIGRAPHER OF THIS AGE!
Oh-
ALRIGHT! LET'S SEE YOU WRITE SOME-THING.
KOITO-DONO, COULD YOU BRING US PAPER AND AN INK STONE?
RIGHT AWAY.
ANYTHING IS FINE.
TRY WRITING YOUR FAVORITE CHINESE POEM.
ALRIGHT.
UH .. WELL..
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE.. ?

SENJU REMEMBERED IT CLEARLY.
THE POEM YOU PLAYFULLY COMPOSED EARLIER.
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN IT..
gulp
brush
SPRING EVENING..
HEY, THIS IS...
brush
brush
!!!
CERTAINLY... IT RESEMBLES JIEN AJARI'S WRITING...
LOOK AT HOW BOLD AND VIVID THE INK STROKES ARE!

I MESSED UP
Hm
THERE'S TOO MUCH TALKING AROUND ME
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT AS DIGNIFIED AS HIS FAMOUS WORKS OF CALLIGRAPHY,
IT SHOWS PROMISE.
...AH!
THE ONLY MISTAKE WAS ON THE WORD "EI".*
BUT YOU'VE WRITTEN QUITE WELL UP TO MOROE'S NAME.
Where?
Haha
OH, SORRY SORRY.
bummed
*"ei" is a kanji character meaning, composed by" in this case.
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH ON QUICKLY,
AND MAYBE EVEN WORK AT THE HOUSE FOR IMPERIAL ARCHIVE KEEPERS.

三ノ巻 終

Chapter 3 End

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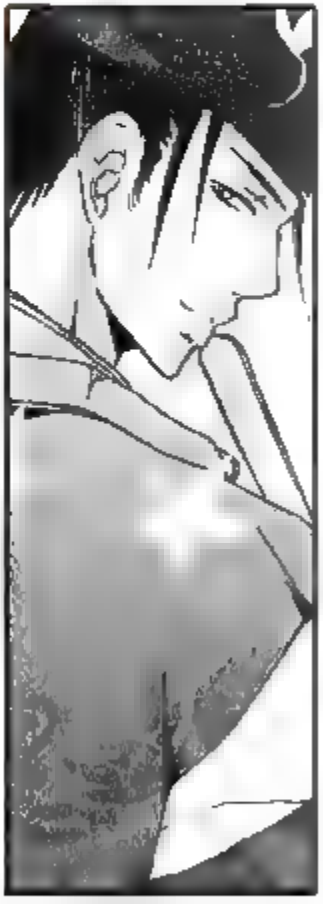
Ouchou Haru no Yoi no Romance



by

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This is information for chapters 4 - 8! Come back later!

Information

The Imperial Palace (Heian Palace)

The Heian Palace consisted of two areas: the greater palace (Daidairi) and inner palace (Dairi). The greater palace consisted of the Twelve Halls of the government ministries, as well as other important governing centers. It is located between the first and second major east-west avenues (Ichijou (ch. 6, p. 84) and Nijou) and the two north-south avenues (Nishi Omiya and Omiya). The inner palace was the emperor's quarters, where he would carry out most of his tasks, and is generally restricted to outsiders.

The En no Matsubara, or Banqueting Pine Grove (ch. 4, p. 155) is a large open area in the Daidairi, to the east of the Dairi.

The Shishinden (ch. 5, p. 24), or Hall for State Ceremonies, is the largest building of the Dairi. It is the throne room, used for important ceremonies such as the coronation of an Emperor.

The Kyoushoden (ch. 4, p. 154, ch. 5, p. 24) was a hall southwest of the Shinshiden, where the Chamberlain's Office (office of the personal secretariat to the emperor) was located.

All gates within the palace are given names, which are generally named after titles of the royal family (Shikikan ch. 4, p. 155; Tatsuchi ch. 6, p. 56; Shuumei ch. 6, p. 65).

This is information for chapters 4 - 8! Come back later!

Information

Hollyhock Festival (Aoi Matsuri)

One of the three large festivals in Kyoto held on May 15th, in which emissaries leave the Kyoto Imperial Palace and proceed to the Kamo Shrines. The Kamo Shrines consist of both the Kamigamo (ch. 6, p. 52) and Shimogamo (ch. 6, p. 52) Shrines, dedicated to Kamo Wake-ikazuchi, the god of thunder. The name comes from the Hollyhock leaf crest that all participants wear.

It is custom before the festival for the royal virgin princess (Kamo no Saiou ch. 5, p. 24) to undergo a ritual cleansing (purification ceremony, "Misogi no Gi" ch. 5, p. 21) in the Kamo River. Many officials and attendants in the large festival procession accompany her to the Kamo Shrines. Today, a maiden posing as the Saiou forms the center of the Hollyhock Festival procession.

There are a number of other purification ceremonies that occur at the Kamo Shrines before the actual festival day. Most of them consist of activities, the first being an archery competition (Yabusame) on May 3rd. The Kamo Kurabeuma, or Ritual Horse Race (ch. 4, p. 173) is held on the 5th of May. It is customary to hold a houhei (a wand with hemp and paper streamers that is offered to a Shinto god, ch. 6, p. 55) ceremony before the race, where one of the horse riders waves the houhei and offers a prayer to the gods.

At the end of the festival, there is a return ceremony, Kaeridachi no Gi (ch. 8, p. 137) in which the Saiou leaves the Kamo Shrines and returns to her own residence, the Saiin.

王朝春宵
【おうちょう*はるの*しゅんしょ】
ロマンセ
四
ノ巻

HAVE YOU MEMORIZED THE WAY FROM MY HOUSE YET?
YES

OUR ROLE IS TO SERVE NEXT TO THE EMPEROR.
THEREFORE, ANYTHING WORK-RELATED IS NOT TO BE BROUGHT OUTSIDE.
BUT BE AWARE OF ONE THING.
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE SERVING ME IN THE IMPERIAL ARCHIVES HALL.
GOOD.
ALSO...
I UNDERSTAND. THE THINGS I SEE AND HEAR INSIDE
WILL BE KEPT SECRET.

Kyoushoden - Location of the Chamberlain's Office, southwest of Shishinden. See Information.
THE IMPERIAL ARCHIVES HALL IS WITHIN THE KYOUSHODEN.*
I SEE. MOROE-SAMA'S WORK PLACE.
OH... WHEN YOU WANT TO PLAY, JUST LEAVE FROM THE SHIKIKAN GATE AND GO WEST TO WHAT'S CALLED THE "BANQUETING PINE GROVE."*
YOU CAN PLAY THERE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
I.
AM NO LONGER A CHILD.

* Banqueting Pine Grove - En no Matsubara. See Information.

We've gotten more familiar,
But that's not the proper behavior with Moroe-sama...
DON'T DO IT AGAIN
So I unconsciously reacted the same way I would have with Ajari-sama...
!
step step step
!
tap
OH, THAT'S BRIGHTER.
THANK YOU

How exactly did this Tomoyasu take care of Moroe-sama?
One would naturally light the lamp when it darkens...
YOU'RE MUCH MORE ATTENTIVE THAN TOMOYASU.
?
step

I haven't eaten anything all day. Where should I go to get some food?
I don't have a governmental position, and I can't bother Moroe-sama any further...
Good thing I didn't do that in front of Moroe-sama
rumble
THAT'S RIGHT..
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SERVE MOROE-SAMA DURING THE DAY.
For now, I should find Tomoyasu-sama in the attendant's quarter,
And ask him about it.
EXCUSE ME, WHERE IS THE ATTENDANT'S QUARTER..
HUH?
I'M BUSY, ASK SOMEBODY ELSE!
rumble~
!!
rumble
rumble
PEOPLE IN THE PALACE ARE SO COLD.

I NEED TO CONSULT TOMOYASU-SAMA ABOUT SOMETHING.
IS HE AVAILABLE?
HEY, TOMOYASU-SAMA!
SOME BEAUTY IS LOOKING FOR YOU!
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF.
I AM SENJUMARU, AN ATTENDANT FOR FUJIWARA MOROE-SAMA.
YOU'RE A WELL-MANNERED LITTLE BOY.
IS THE DISCIPLINE AT FUJIWARA-SAMA'S HOUSEHOLD THAT STRICT?
NO, I WAS TRAINED AT THE TEMPLE.

TEMPLE?
I WAS A CHIGO THERE SINCE THE AGE OF SIX.
Sit
OH?
I BELIEVE WE UNDER-ESTIMATED THE NOBLE SON OF THE FUJIWARA FAMILY.
MAD
Shin
MOROE-SAMA IS NOT LIKE THAT!
WHAT, WHAT IS IT?
charrr
OH?
NOW THERE'S A BEAUTY.
HE'S MOROE-SAMA'S SERVANT.
charrr
haha
I'D SAY IT'S HIS LOVER RATHER THAN HIS SERVANT!

DO YOU USE THOSE SLENDER HIPS TO ENTICE HIM ALL NIGHT?
haha
haha
IF YOU KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT,
THE LITTLE CHIGO WILL EXPLODE.
MY COCK IS THE ONE ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
Ha ha ha
Please stop it!
If Tomoyasu-sama is not in, then I will come back later.
Please excuse me.
HEY,
WAIT A SECOND!
Is he going to catch me!?

WHAT!?
swish
tap
JUMP
LAND
THAT SURPRISED ME!
HE CAN PERFORM ACROBATICS LIKE A PUPPET!
monkey
clap
clap
DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER TRICKS?
HEY, Show us some thing else!
ha ha ha

I am neither a monkey, a puppet, nor a chigo!
I do not perform, and I do not warm beds!!
rumble~
grumble
Ah
BANG
Ah ha ha
EVEN THE BUGS IN HIS STOMACH ARE ASSERTIVE!
Ah ha ha
hehe
I... JUST.
WANTED TO REPAY MORDE-SAMA, MY LIFE-SAVER.
BY SERVING AS HIS ATTENDANT...
JUST THAT..
Sob
rumble~
grumble

I WASN'T INFORMED OF MY SPECIFIC DUTIES,
SO I'M UNSURE OF HOW TO CARRY OUT MY WORK.
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK TOMOYASU-SAMA FOR ASSISTANCE.
I WOULD ASK THAT YOU announce ME TO HIM.
Please,
Did you not hear me!?
!!!
rub rub

I AM NITTA JUTAROU, SERVING UNDER SHOUHACHI IGE.
hey
HEY, TOMO-YASU!
YOU'VE GOT A GUEST! WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG!?
I'LL TEACH YOU WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN ANYTHING BY TALKING TO HIM.
IF MOROE-SAMA IS YOUR LIFESAVER, THEN HE DIDN'T PURCHASE YOU.
YES.
SO YOU'RE SERVING HIM OUT OF GRATITUDE.
ISN'T THAT ADMIRABLE? DID EVERYONE HEAR THAT!?
Uu..
NN.
Yes, We did.

I'm sorry.. I'm truly sorry.
I WASN'T AWARE OF THE DETAILS.,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME GUY WHO STOLE MY JOB,
AND THAT MOROE-SAMA TOOK YOU IN BASED ON YOUR LOOKS.
sneak sneak
SO YOU WERE IN THERE!
I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW.
I'M SURE YOU'RE HUNGRY.
YOU CAN EAT YOUR MEALS WITH US.
WE'LL ALSO GET YOU SOME BEDDING.
I'M IN YOUR DEBT
MOROE-SAMA ISN'T A BAD PERSON,
BUT IT'S TOO MUCH TO EXPECT FROM A NOBLE SON TO PAY ATTENTION TO FINE DETAILS.

HONESTY IS A VIRTUE, BUT PRETENDING TO BE "A FOOL" WILL GET YOU FURTHER IN LIFE.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S HELPFUL TO BE WITTY
I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT
ha ha
tap
tap
tap
step
step
step

Phew...
smile
GOOD JOB.
IT'S SO SHINY!
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap

Hopefully he was able to settle down in a retreat somewhere...
I wonder if Ajari-sama is doing alright.
Someday, I'll request time off to go search for him!
Mid-April.
bang
bang

THIS YEAR'S PREPARATIONS SURE ARE TAKING A LONG TIME
SHEESH.
GOOD GRIEF. IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS LAST YEAR'S FESTIVAL.
That stupid ceremony planner
sigh
ALL THIS RUNNING AROUND IS MAKING ME SWEAT.
WELCOME BACK, MOROE-SAMA.
ALLOW ME TO CLEAN YOUR BODY.
Alright
PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR HITOE AND OOKATABIRA.*
Squeeze
step
step

*Hitoe & Ookatabira – Two inner layers of a typical Heian period kimono

IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS DURING THE FESTIVAL SEASON.
IT FEELS UNUSUALLY HOT TODAY.
OH, THAT REALLY BRIGHTENS MY MOOD.
THERE'S A HOLLYHOCK SPRIG TAKEN FRESH FROM THE MOUNTAINS FOR THE FESTIVAL IN THE BUCKET NEXT TO THE WELL.
IT'S TO BE WORN ON MY COURT HAT TOMORROW FOR WORK.
OH, THAT'S NICE.
I UNDER-STAND.
rub
rub

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR!
SINCE YOU'RE BRAGGING, GO AHEAD AND TAKE IT ALL OFF
YES. SENJU IS VERY ATTENTIVE
rub
rub
rub
I SEE. YOU'RE AFRAID THAT YOU'LL SCARE SENJU WITH YOUR THING.
STOP KIDDING AROUND, NARIHIRA-DONO.
WEREN'T YOU ON YOUR WAY TO THE HORSE RIDING GROUND?

WHAT, YOU STILL CAN'T RIDE HIM?
TAKE "SAGAMI," FOR EXAMPLE.
TRAINING THOSE RACE-HORSES FOR THE CEREMONY WILL MAKE ME SWEAT ALL OVER AGAIN.
HE'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YORINAO'S HORSE "CHIKUGO."
I CAN'T EVEN CONTROL THE REINS,
THANKS TO HIS LUSTY RAGE.
THAT SOUNDS DIFFICULT...
Idiot.
You actually believed me?
Huh.
You were joking...?

BE GRATEFUL
YOUR CONCERN TOOK YOUR MIND OFF OTHER THINGS, NO?
WH..
WHAT..
blush
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
SENJU,
IF YOU HELP MOROE WASH HIS BACK IN THE BATHHOUSE TOMORROW BEFORE WORK.
na
na
na
YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING.
NARIHIRA-DONO,
DON'T SAY SUCH WEIRD THINGS!
sigh
NOT AGAIN..
ALL HE DOES IS JOKE AROUND FOOLISHLY.
Huh!?

Even a righteous person like Moroe-sama,
Can have an erection!?
rub
rub
rub
rub
Could it be...
touch
Because I'm cleaning his body?
AH, LIM...
THAT'S ENOUGH.

HAND ME THE TOWEL.
DID I MISS SOMEPLACE?
NO, I JUST WANT TO WIPE MY FEET.
OH I DIDN'T NOTICE! LET ME DO IT!!
NO... I WILL...
RUSTLE
PLEASE ALLOW ME.
UM...
squeeze
squeeze
rub
rub

What should I do now...?
I know I'm inexperienced,
But I know that if it keeps swelling up, it'll start hurting.
I'm sure it's very painful.
squeeze
squeeze
...If Moroe-sama is in pain,
Perhaps I should relieve him by doing what the older monks taught me before.
But if I voice my concerns,
Moroe-sama will realize that I noticed...
YES. THAT'S MUCH BETTER.
PLEASE BRING ME ANOTHER HITOE.

* Noushi = Non ceremonial, casual kimono for the male nobility
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE INTO A NOUSHI?*
AH, YES PLEASE.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
ARE YOU COLD?
Start
Rustle
Pretend I don't see it...
Pretend I don't see it...
Grab
AH...
Ah!

EH..
I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU CALL TOMOYASU FOR ME?
YOU MAY RETURN TO THE MANSION.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO WITNESS... SUCH VULGARITY
AH,
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I WANT TO SERVE MOROE-SAMA.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE!
I DON'T WANT TO EITHER,
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE
rustle

I KNOW THE CURE!
I CAN RELIEVE IT BY USING A MILKING MOTION.
What are you saying!?
PLEASE...
Wha
Did they make you do that at the temple!?
ALLOW ME TO RELIEVE YOU.
But later, when they wanted to see my body
When I was little, they often praised me for performing the treatment well.
I got really scared,
And ran back to Ajari-sama.

EVER SINCE I WAS DECEIVED BY FORCE.
I'VE BEEN CAREFUL WITH THEM.
BUT WITH YOUR PERMISSION.
I CAN STILL TREAT IT
BUT THIS. .
clench
THIS IS
CAUSED BY THE LECHEROUS THOUGHTS I HAVE OF YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS HELD YOU DEAR TO MY HEART, BUT NOW . THIS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FEELING.

..
IRRE-
SIST-
IBLE?
YOU'VE
BECOME..
IRRE-
SISTIBLE
TO ME
I'M
SAYING.
THAT I
WANT
TO HOLD
YOU.
YOU DON'T
WANT THAT
TO HAPPEN
EITHER,
RIGHT?
THAT'S
WHY.
I'LL DEFINITELY
FORGET MYSELF
DURING YOUR
TREATMENT.
AND DO
SOMETHING
UNFORGIV-
ABLE
!!
I'LL
TRY TO
ACCEPT IT
!!

Don't be absurd! It's splendid of you to offer me your body out of gratitude.
But I won't accept it!
What I feel for you...
Is love!
I don't want you to repay me for saving your life!
step
step
step

What should I do...?
I...
Made Moroe-sama angry...
step
step
step
step
step
shake
shake
collapse

SENJU
THERE YOU ARE
NARUMIA-SAMA
COME AND GET YOUR STUBBORN MASTER
I WANT TO SLEEP BUT HE REFUSES TO BUDGE FROM MY SUITE
IT'S EXTREMELY ANNOYING
BUT EVEN IF I GO

I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED.
ALTHOUGH PUTTING YOUR INNOCENCE AND MOROE'S AWKWARDNESS TOGETHER WILL CREATE CONFLICT,
TAP
THANKS TO THE SPARKS IT CREATED,
AREN'T WE NOTICING SOMETHING NEW ABOUT OURSELVES?
I'm not sure. I understand what you mean
AND YOU DON'T DISLIKE MOROE.
NOD
YES.
DIDN'T MOROE SAY HE'S "IN LOVE" WITH YOU?

YES
SO IF MORDE WANTS TO, YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF UP TO HIM.
AM I RIGHT?
AND THE REASON YOU ESCAPED FROM THE TEMPLE
IS BECAUSE YOU WERE VIOLATED BY DRUNKEN MONKS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'VE NEVER DONE..
ANY-THING LIKE THAT
I KNEW IT
YOU DON'T LOOK EXPERIENCED WITH MEN AT ALL
AND YOU.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SERVE HIM AGAIN...
NO, MOROE JUST TOOK IT THE WRONG WAY.
AND ALSO, YOU DIDN'T SAY IT PROPERLY.
I TOLD MOROE YOU'D BE FINE WITH IT, NO?
YES, I DID.. BUT MOROE-SAMA BECAME VERY ANGRY.
turn
turn
I'LL TEACH YOU A SECRET.
LEND ME YOUR EAR.
A SECRET TECHNIQUE?
PLEASE TELL ME.

Ee!!
hug
Narihira-sama!?
dash
GUESS I WON'T DO.
Are...
NO NO, JUST A LITTLE TEST
Are you messing with me!?
FOR HIS AWKWARD LOVE.
TO SEE IF YOU'RE AN APPROPRIATE PARTNER
IS THE BEST FRIEND I HAVE
HE.

THE FUJIWARA FAMILY IS FOOLISHLY HONEST, AND OBSTINATE
I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE HOW LOST HE CAN BE SOMETIMES
I'M VERY MUCH AWARE OF EVERYTHING MORDE-SAMA HAS DONE FOR ME
OH?
ME TOO. I ALSO LIKE MORDE-SAMA

BUT IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE HE SAVED MY LIFE.
I
I ADMIRE HIM.
clench
He's kindhearted
And filled with sincerity
ALTHOUGH I SAID...
I WOULD REPAY MY DEBTS BY SERVING HIM,
THE TRUTH IS. .
I SIMPLY WANT TO STAY BY HIS SIDE.
ARE YOU SURE ..
THAT MORDE ISN'T JUST A SUBSTITUTE FOR AJARI-SAMA, WHOM YOU PARTED WITH?

...HUH?
IS IT NOT BECAUSE, LIKE AJARI-SAMA, MOROE TREATS YOU WITH TRUE KINDNESS?
IF SO,
THEN MOROE CANNOT MAKE YOU HIS LOVER.
That's not it!!
UH...
MOROE,
I'LL ONLY HELP YOU THIS FAR!
THE REST IS UP TO YOU TWO!

I WON'T DO THIS AGAIN
HEH
THAT I HAD TO ACT
AS YOUR AWKWARD MEDIATOR
HEH
IS A DISGRACE

FROM THE MOMENT WE MET,
THESE FEELINGS WERE ALREADY HIDDEN WITHIN ME.
I DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL NARIHIRA-DONO TOLD ME.
Rustle
YOU MUST BE DISAPPOINTED IN ME.
I TOO,
HAVE JUST REALIZED
THE ADMIRATION I HOLD FOR MOROE-SAMA..
IS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I FEEL FOR AJARI-SAMA.
HOW-EVER.
HOW-EVER?
I. .
STILL ONLY KNOW THAT MUCH.

UM...
IT WILL ACTUALLY BE MY FIRST TIME.
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO..
HOWEVER.
HM?
I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE OPPOSED..
NOR AFRAID IF MOROE-SAMA WERE TO HOLD ME.
I SEE...
YOUR FIRST TIME...?
I FORGOT ONE THING.
WOAH
Don't scare me like that!

SENJU WASN'T GANG RAPED
LIKE WE HAD THOUGHT
HE'S AS VIRGINAL AS A FRESH BUD
BUT THAT ALSO MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN BEGINNING
BE PREPARED
PAT
.....
ACTUALLY, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE REASON HE "ESCAPED FROM THE TEMPLE."
BUT I'LL LEAVE THAT ALONE FOR TODAY
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
Yeah,
As usual!!

SHALL WE GIVE IT A TRY?
...YES.
..SO.
AH.

COME HERE...
四ノ巻 終
Chapter 4 End

A*TO*GA*KI

Nice to meet you! This is Ichi Yuzuki. This is the first time I've ever published a comic book. Nervous...? Not really, since reality hasn't sunk in yet. I'm more relieved, since it's like taking care of a personal affair.

I was surprised when they contracted me for romance novel illustrations, but when they talked about doing manga, and a serialized one at that, I was shocked. In reality, I'm somewhat... hesitant about drawing. I've seriously pondered about whether to quit it entirely before. Thanks to my manager though, I've somehow managed to reach this point, and I'm very happy about it. I hope I was able to convey at least part of the wonderful feeling of the original.

Actually, I once scribbled a Heian Period historical manga in my notebooks during middle school. Since then, I've been a big fan of that time period. It's mysterious that fate has led me to illustrate it for work... and I do it with all my heart.

Hope to see everyone again in the next volume!
Thank you everyone, for taking the time to read this!

Ichi Yuzuki
December 2003

* Heisei = current era in Japan

KOH・AKIZUKI & ICHI・YUZUKI・PRESENTS

■初出一覧
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一ノ巻…Chara Selection 3月号('03)
二ノ巻…Chara Selection 5月号('03)
三ノ巻…Chara Selection 7月号('03)
四ノ巻…Chara Selection 1月号('04)
あとがき／描き下ろし

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「秋月こお先生」「唯月一先生」係

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